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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
16 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #278 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

The fighting that was initiated by the rebels yesterday morning continued most of the daylight hours until a hastily arranged cease-fire went into effect at about 9:30 pm EDT.

The night hours were apparently generally quiet except for sporadic explosions in rebel territory-- the result, according to the rebels, of mortar shells being fired into the area from loyalist positions.

Twenty-four US military personnel were wounded in action yesterday, as was one Brazilian lieutenant. The rebels lost at least 16 killed and an unknown number wounded. Among the rebel dead was the French soldier of fortune Andres Riviere who is believed to have been one of the closest advisers to rebel Defense Minister Montes Arache.

A rebel force of between 30 and 40 began firing against US troops at about 8:30 EDT yesterday morning. US forces did not begin returning the fire until they had suffered casualties. At about 9:15 am EDT the rebels attacked US forces at another point from the eastern side of the rebel-controlled area and at about 1:30 EDT in the afternoon rebel attacks were made from the other side of their zone in the National Palace area which is guarded by Brazilian troops.

Starting about noon EDT, US forces, with the endorsement of General Alvim, advanced into rebel-held areas several blocks in order to outflank the rebels and better protect US-held areas. By late afternoon, troops of the Inter-American Force had established a new line which, in effect, widens the International Security Zone by two city blocks along the southern edge of the corridor.

State Dept. review completed

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The rebel attacks seem to have been motivated in part by a desperate rebel effort to obtain more direct United Nations intervention in the Dominican Republic--a development which they have reason to believe would benefit their cause.

Within an hour after the initial rebel attacks, their radio was broadcasting an account of the "yankee attacks" complete with inflammatory allegations that US forces were killing Dominican women and children. The Caamano government immediately lodged a protest with the UN observer team and the rebel foreign minister cabled a detailed protest to the UN secretary general. As a result, the UN Security Council has scheduled a meeting for 3:00 pm EDT this afternoon to discuss yesterday's events in the Dominican Republic and to consider the probable requests from the USSR and others for an expanded UN role in the Dominican crisis. The Soviet delegate is likely again to charge that the renewed fighting once more demonstrates that the OAS is incapable of dealing with the crisis.

Another and perhaps equally important factor behind yesterday's rebel action is the increased influence of hard-line extremist groups and particularly of the pro-Castro Fourteenth of June Political Group (APCJ) which is reported to be dominant among the armed units defending the rebel areas. The APCJ issued a publication during the big rebel rally on Monday which clearly spelled out its position that "armed struggle," not negotiation, is the only proper means of consolidating the "popular revolution."

The APCJ publication clearly indicated that there has been a strong difference of opinion between rebel factions as to the best tactics. It declared that "others believed that by conversing with the imperialists victory could be achieved. Now they concede that we are right and there is talk of incorporating the entire country into the armed struggle." The publication urged the immediate extension of the struggle to the towns and cities of the interior.

The extremists may, in fact, have calculated that an intensification of fighting in the capital would spark uprisings in the interior. There have as yet, however, been no reports of any such renewed violence in the interior.

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There were further indications yesterday that the rebel government may be losing control of the extremist-led armed units defending rebel territory. UN observer Mayobre told Ambassador Bunker yesterday afternoon that Caamano had advised him that he had given orders that the shooting should cease, but was not at all confident that these orders would be obeyed. The embassy was also informed by General Alvim's chief of staff that he has received several telephone calls recently from top rebel military commanders seeking to excuse recent sporadic firing by rebel units on the grounds that these were unauthorized and committed by forces not under full rebel control.

Meanwhile, the loyalist government of Antonio Imbert has remained generally isolated from the day's main developments. He did inform the special OAS committee yesterday afternoon, however, that he had ordered his forces so deployed as to reinforce Inter-American forces in case of need. Imbert's radio stations during the day engaged in a major psychological warfare effort against rebel areas by seeking to create the impression that the Inter-American forces were moving in to wipe out the rebels once and for all.

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